



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

November 19, 2004

News Release

FOUR MEN INDICTED FOR POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

FRESNO — In unrelated cases, four Fresno area men have been indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of possessing material involving the sexual exploitation of minors.

United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced the indictments today against Christopher Badorine, 19, Thomas Denney, 43, William Horsley, 48, and Robert Churning, 74. All of the indictments allege the defendants used a computer and the Internet to obtain images of child pornography.

All four cases were investigated by Special Agent Mike Prado of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) office in Fresno, California, along with Detective Kevin Wiens, with the Fresno County Sheriff's Department, Computer Crimes Investigation Unit.

In the cases of defendants Badorine and Horsley, the indictments allege the defendants possessed more than 600 images of child pornography and that many of the images depicted prepubescent minors and violence or sado-masochistic conduct. In the case of defendant Denney, the indictment alleges he possessed between 150 and 300 images, many of which also depicted prepubescent minors and violence or sado-masochistic conduct. Churning also obtained his images by the use of a computer via the Internet.

Each defendant faces a maximum of ten years in prison, and up to a \$250,000 fine if convicted.

The indictments are part of Operation Predator, an ongoing enforcement initiative launched last year by ICE to identify, investigate, arrest and, in the case of foreign nationals, deport child sex predators. Since the initiative began in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 4,400 individuals nationwide, including nearly 1,200 in California. In addition, foreign law enforcement officials acting on ICE leads have arrested more than 860 sexual predators in their respective countries.

"The United States Attorney's Office remains resolute in the coordinated targeting of those who traffic in materials exploiting our children," said United States Attorney Scott.

“These cases are the result of some terrific law enforcement teamwork involving ICE and the Fresno County Sheriff’s Office,” said Scott Brown, resident agent-in-charge of investigations for ICE in Fresno. “Those who trade in the exploitation of children can no longer hide in the anonymity of cyberspace. This behavior will not be tolerated.”

Defendants Badorine and Denney are being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney David L. Gappa, while defendants Horsley and Churning are being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jonathan B. Conklin.

The charges are only allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.